

THE GATEWAY

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Hockey Pandas win gold medal at Nationals



FEMALE PUCKSTERS GOOD AS GOLD The hockey Pandas were all smiles as they came home from the national championships as winners yesterday.

MATT FREHNER

Smoking on campus under fire after vote

SCOTT LIMWALL
News Staff

Feeding the nicotine addiction may become a little harder for smokers in the coming months, as a large majority of voters in last week's Students' Union election were in favour of banning the use and sale of tobacco products on campus.

Now, the responsibility falls on the Students' Union and the University administration to decide what, if any, action will be taken in response to the results.

"At the moment, we have no plan. We have the plebiscite result, and a majority of students are in favour of the ban. The next step is to take the issue to Council."

JASON TOBIAS
SU VP (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

The non-binding plebiscite, which was part of last week's SU elections, asked if students would support a total ban on the sale of tobacco products on campus, as well as forbidding the use of such products on University property, except in areas near residences or for cultural reasons. The majority of voters were in favour of the ban, with 3612 ballots cast for the "Yes" campaign, representing about 60 per cent of voters.

SU Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias said that while the results are not a complete surprise, careful planning must be undertaken before any action is taken.

"At the moment, we have no plan. We have the plebiscite result, and a majority of students are in favour of the ban. The next step is to take the issue to Council," Tobias said. "We were waiting for the results of the plebiscite before doing anything. Having those results, now is the time to discuss what is to be done next."

There are costs to be weighed when coming up with a final decision on tobacco sales and use on campus, Tobias pointed out. The SU makes about \$30 000 annually from the sale of tobacco products, and the financial impact of a total ban could be quite substantial.

PLEASE SEE SMOKING ♦ PAGE 3

Students vote in a Powerful mandate

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
News Staff

After a night of celebrating at the PowerPlant, Students' Union President-elect Samantha Power was still bouncing with euphoric energy while talking about her plans for the next academic year.

The fourth-year Political Science student, and first female SU president in six years, is looking forward to beginning her term on 1 May—despite her lack of enthusiasm about the presidential office's decor.

"I don't really like the couches in there," she jokingly admits.

And even though she won a landslide victory in last week's election, with 60 per cent of the vote on the first ballot, Power acknowledges her work has only just begun.

"It was a very mixed experience. There's the excitement of winning, but there's also the huge realization of the job that's ahead of you."

Now that the campaigning is over, Power says she will begin to work towards realizing the goals of her campaign platform, beginning with advocating greater undergraduate attention from the University administration.

"I truly believe that undergraduates

are being ignored on this campus, and that was a large reason why I wanted to run [for President]," she says. "We have a new University President, and we have this huge opportunity to change the direction of this University—we need to ensure that we're taking it."

Power, who has been involved with the SU in varying degrees since 2003, credits her experience this year as vice-president (external) for giving her insight towards approaching her new job.

"The first thing I want to do is develop a good relationship with my vice-presidents," Power says. "I want to make sure the VPs are getting out and talking to students on a regular basis. [Because] there needs to be a greater connection between what the VPs do and what students want to see change on this campus."

Power looks forward to expanding the "Roll it Back Ralph" tuition campaign she helped create this year as VP (external), and taking it beyond the U of A campus.

"We have a very good launching point; I think we're in a good position to take [the campaign] province-wide."

PLEASE SEE POWER ♦ PAGE 4



JOSH MALKIT

SAMANTHA RISES TO POWER From Vice-President (External) to President.

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I've got an election

David Berry goes undercover again to bring you the excitement and disappointment of election night.

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Absolutely FABulous

Awards for book design and the prints of a MFA student fill FAB Gallery. Jessica Warren investigates.

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Plans for student-funded PAC defeated in plebiscite

Though the vote was close, proposal to build new Physical Activity Complex shot down by students

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

Even though students voted down a fee to support a Physical Activity Complex (PAC) last week, campus may yet see a scaled-down version of the facility.

Just over 55 per cent of voters were against the proposal to institute a \$40 per student fee to subsidize the PAC, which would have included a large new fitness centre for students as well as a new competition ice arena, among other features.

Chad Fletcher, the student who ran the PAC "Yes" campaign, said the issue was complex, and that that made it more difficult for him to make the case for the proposal.

"I think, ultimately, I wasn't able to educate enough people as to what the proposal was that was on the table," he said. "I think there were some misconceptions that were strewn about that left people uncertain, and ultimately, because we were asking students to put money forward, that uncertainty hurt in the end."

Mustafa Hirji, who ran the PAC "No" campaign but said he'd expected it to pass, agreed that uncertainty may have led some students to vote against PAC.

"I think the campaign had some effect, partly the \$40 sticker price scared away some students, and partly, I suspect a lot of students didn't really understand what the plebiscite was about, and they defaulted to voting 'No' rather than voting for a fee," Hirji said.

Despite the defeat of the plebiscite, many students still feel current fitness facilities are inadequate, and the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation is expected to continue pursuing the building, through its dean, Dr. Michael Mahlon, was unable to comment as of press time.

"[The proposed fee] was the easiest way to finance it, but obviously it isn't going to work now," said Hirji. "What I think is going to happen is that the faculty will go to other sources of funding; it will probably delay getting the building up and

running, and they may alter the project slightly to reduce costs, but it'll eventually happen."

"I think there were some misconceptions that were strewn about that left people uncertain, and ultimately, because we were asking students to put money forward, that uncertainty hurt in the end."

CHAD FLETCHER,
PAC "YES" CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Fletcher said he was unsure of what the next PAC proposal will look like.

"I'm not sure we can expect the University to continue to invest the amount of time and energy it has in

the past into trying to help the students with something like this after this vote," he said.

Though Students' Council had previously declined to support a PAC fee—University policy requires a vote of either Council or the student body in order to institute a new non-instructional fee—Fletcher said he hoped the Students' Union would take a lead in helping develop a new plan to address the concerns that many students had with the defeated proposal.

"I would like to think that, being that such a volume of students did show support and interest in seeing something like this happen—and I think it's reasonable to expect that even those who voted against it weren't necessarily against the facility, but against the fee—I would hope the Students' Union would take it upon themselves to try to address some of the issues that were brought up by the 'No' side, in that they felt it would be possible to generate the facility with a lower fee for students, or even no fee," Fletcher said.

STREETERS

On Sunday, Stephen Harper made a surprise trip to Afghanistan to support our troops, and has advocated for a greater Canadian role in the War on Terror.

What do you think of Canada taking a "leading role" in this war?



Donald
Edgecombe
Science II



Hanif Virani
Bio Sci III



Christina Hurey
Education III



Boon Khoo
Science I

It's Canada's place, as a leading democratic nation, to take such a stance, so I think it definitely should be done. If anyone's going to do it, it should be him. George W. Bush has shown that he's taken more of a Republican stance, so maybe Stephen Harper can take perhaps—he's still conservative—but a more liberal approach to it, instead of the kind George Bush has.

I think it's good that he went to visit Afghanistan to support our troops. Also, I believe that it's fundamental to creating peace and stability in that area of the world, and towards the Middle East gaining trust towards us, and not saying the West is all bad—including Canada in the West. So, I think it's really good.

A leading role? I don't know what he means by that. It depends on what he wants to do. I'd want him to do something more profound. I don't know, I think he's going to get himself in trouble with that. I mean, define "leading role." Everyone is going to have their own opinions on that.

I don't really think Canada should be taking a role in this kind of stuff, because we don't really have any defences or any type of military support to give out. Unless we're like the Americans or the British, who have more military capabilities to help out other countries. We don't have helicopters—they're always breaking down—and our submarines are always broken... So, I don't really think we should get ourselves involved in something as dangerous as the Taliban. However, I think it's pretty good that we're helping the world.

Compiled and photographed by Scott Lilwall and Amanda Ash

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VPs-elect ready to start new term

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

For the winners in this year's Students' Union Executive election, last Thursday night was a chance to let loose after a tense campaign, but it may take some time for victory to sink in.

"I bumped into a friend of mine, and I randomly said, 'Stop by my office when I get it,' and that's weird to say," said Vice-President (Student Life)-elect Omer Yusuf. "I've been in that office for three years as a volunteer, and it's weird to think that it's going to be mine."

Nonetheless, Yusuf, currently an SU Arts counselor, indicated that he'd like to get to work, even before he takes office along with the rest of the new Executive on 1 May.

"I really want to start right away, because people are right: this position is so hard to do anything with," he said, referring to frequent complaints that the VPSL portfolio is ill-defined. "But I want to do something with it; I want to deserve this. I want to show the people who elected me that they elected me for good reason."

The mood was somewhat different for the two candidates, VP (Academic)-elect Amanda Henry and Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative-elect Chris Samuel were the only candidates for their respective positions, and were running against only a none-of-the-above option, which no candidate in recent memory has lost to. Both candidates managed large margins of victory; Henry won 84 per cent of the vote, while Samuel earned 86 per cent.

"The last couple of weeks were kind of awkward, because a lot of people were saying, 'Congratulations,' when I actually hadn't won yet," said Henry.

She'll now return to her current job as associate vice-president (academic) for the rest of the term after taking a leave during the campaign, affording her a unique opportunity to get an early start on implementing her platform.

"As much as I'd like to say I'm going to keep this year separate from next year, a lot of what I want to do next year is going to spill over," Henry said. "So here's hoping I have a good start by the time I actually take office."

For Samuel, who ran a \$0 campaign to avoid spending students' money on an uncontested race, the overwhelming vote in his favour was something of a vindication of his

ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN

Under the preferential ballot system, votes are counted in their usual manner, and if one person gains over 50 per cent of the vote, the election is called in their favour. If no one candidate gets more than 50 per cent, the candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated and all ballots that ranked them number one are counted as if their number two choice was ranked first. This continues until there's a candidate with more than 50 per cent of the vote.

VP (Academic)

Round 1	votes (\$413 total)
Amanda Henry	4573 (84 per cent)
None of the Above	840 (16 per cent)

VP (Operations and Finance)

Round 1	votes (\$306 total)
Chris Cunningham	2021 (68 per cent)
Theresa Chapman	1797 (54 per cent)
None of the Above	776 (15 per cent)
Gail Lewis	712 (13 per cent)

Round 2	votes (\$127 total)
Chris Cunningham	2234 (44 per cent)
Theresa Chapman	2089 (41 per cent)
None of the Above	804 (16 per cent)

Round 3	votes (\$447 total)
Chris Cunningham	2392 (51 per cent)
Theresa Chapman	2184 (49 per cent)

BOG Representative

Round 1	votes (\$245 total)
Chris Samuel	4520 (86 per cent)
None of the Above	725 (14 per cent)

strategy: when the results were announced at the PowerPlant, he pointed to several people in the crowd, saying, "You owe me money."

"I think it shows that candidates don't need to spend student money when it's unnecessary," he said later. VP (External)-elect Dave Courmoyer, who beat out two other candidates to earn the victory, said the competition made things all the sweeter.

"It was a fun race; I had a fun time," he said. "I was going to campaign as hard as I could and do as many things as I could, and if I did all that and still didn't win, then it probably wasn't meant to be in the first place."

Chris Cunningham, an SU rookie who won the race for vice-president (operations and finance), said he's looking forward to getting to know

VP (Student Life)

Round 1	votes (\$482 total)
Omer Yusuf	2721 (50 per cent)
Sarah Kall	1610 (29 per cent)
Amanda Leigh	698 (13 per cent)
Hanson	453 (8 per cent)

Round 2	votes (\$105 total)
Omer Yusuf	2760 (54 per cent)
Sarah Kall	1628 (32 per cent)
Amanda Leigh	717 (14 per cent)
Hanson	

VP (External)

Round 1	votes (\$400 total)
Dave Courmoyer	2036 (58 per cent)
Blythe Morrow	1751 (52 per cent)
Damini Mohan	981 (18 per cent)
None of the Above	692 (12 per cent)

Round 2	votes (\$876 total)
Dave Courmoyer	2064 (42 per cent)
Blythe Morrow	1790 (37 per cent)
Damini Mohan	1022 (21 per cent)

Round 3	votes (\$673 total)
Dave Courmoyer	2513 (55 per cent)
Blythe Morrow	2094 (45 per cent)

the organization.

"It's my first time on Council, and it's exciting to be elected to the Executive Committee my first time out. I know [outgoing VPOF] Jason Tobias is going to do a great job with me and show me the ropes, so I'm excited."

Theresa Chapman, who finished second to Cunningham, requested a recount due to the narrow 108-vote margin of victory, or 2.4 per cent. That number is greater than the two per cent window in which a recount would be mandatory under SU bylaws, and Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woyrnowski denied that request.

"I honestly think that if we were to do a recount, it would be a difference of two or three votes," Woyrnowski said.

However, he pointed out that there are still a number of groups that should be consulted before any firm decision is made.

"There are so many bodies with a good deal of force that would have a say in this," he said. "We have a referendum from the undergraduate students, but nobody has consulted the graduate students yet. You really have to say, 'What do you think about [smoking on campus]?' before you impose it on 6000 graduate students out there."

Connor went on to say that students aren't the only ones with a stake in the tobacco issue, pointing to nonacademic and academic staff, who may have drastically different views on the issue. "It's a complex issue. We're probably not going to see any immediate action on a non-binding plebiscite with one of several groups in the very near future," Connor said. "It's just one step in a direction, but it's a significant one."

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SU, admin say students shouldn't expect immediate action on potential smoking ban

SMOKING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"What would we lose from SUBmart, for instance? How many people walk in there to buy a pack of cigarettes, and pick up a pop while they're there? These are things we'll have to find out," Tobias said.

Furthermore, Tobias noted that the SU would only have the power over the removal of tobacco products from SU-owned businesses. As for independently-owned businesses on campus and the ban on use of cigarettes on University property, support would be required from the University's Board of Governors. Tobias stressed the importance of cooperation in creating a new smoking policy on campus.

"I'm hesitant to see the value of the SU taking a stance on the subject without a buying-in from the University," Tobias said.

Dr Bill Connor, vice-provost and dean of students, echoed the need for all factions of the University

community to work together and make a decision on the smoking issue.

"We have a referendum from the undergraduate students, but nobody has consulted the graduate students yet. You really have to say, 'What do you think about [smoking on campus]?' before you impose it on 6000 graduate students out there."

VICE-PROVOST DR BILL CONNOR

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Natalie Climenhaga

A BROKEN WINDOW IS ALL IT TAKES

On 2 March, patrolling constables stopped a vehicle along 114 Street after noticing that the rear passenger window was broken. The vehicle's driver, a 22-year-old male with no University affiliation, was unable to produce documents for the vehicle, and it was determined that his license had been suspended. He was issued several violation notices under the Traffic Safety Act, including driving an uninsured vehicle. The deviant driver was later turned over to the custody of the Edmonton Police Service for criminal possession of stolen property after constables noticed there was no key in the ignition. A subsequent investigation revealed that the vehicle's license plates were stolen. One of the three passengers, an 18-year-old male with no University affiliation, was also issued a ticket under the Traffic Safety Act. Both he and the driver had criminal records.

DRUNKEN JOYRIDE ENDS ON SIDEWALK

On Wednesday, 8 March, a patrolling student auxiliary officer noticed a vehicle with extensive front-end damage parked on a sidewalk near the south side of HUB mall. Upon further investigation, constables determined that the 23-year-old intoxicated male driver had been speeding down Saskatchewan Drive before losing control of his vehicle and striking a curb. EPS charged the man with careless driving and issued him a 24-hour suspension. He had no University affiliation.

SLEEPY TRESPASSER TAKES A NAP

At about 2 am on Friday, 10 March, patrolling constables in the Michener Park area spotted a male sleeping in the driver seat of a blue Mustang, which was parked near Macdon Drive. Campus Security woke the man, and after a brief conversation discovered he had been previously trespassing from the property. The man was arrested, issued a summons for trespassing, and escorted

off the property. The vehicle was towed after it was determined that it was not registered or insured. The 25-year-old male has an extensive criminal record, but no University affiliation.

HERE, WE DRIVE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD

On Sunday, 12 March, Campus 5-0 stopped a swerving vehicle after it crossed over onto the left side of the road. Further investigation revealed that the 27-year-old driver, who had no University affiliation, was intoxicated. EPS arrived on the scene, and the drunkard was immediately arrested for impaired driving, and given a 24-hour driving suspension, along with a ticket for initially failing to stop for officers. The three other passengers were also arrested for possession of drugs.

PEDWALKERS AREN'T WHERE TRUSTWORTHY SALESMEN WORK

In early March, an unidentified man approached a student in the pedway between Cameron library and CAB, offering to sell him a laptop. The student recognized the man, having seen him in the area on numerous occasions, and made arrangements to purchase the laptop on 9 March at around 1 pm. However, when the pair met, the would-be salesman asked the student to show him his money, at which point another male came up behind the student and grabbed the money out of his hand. Both males then ran southbound out of HUB mall with over \$1000.

Campus Security and EPS are currently investigating this case. The first suspect is described as 5'10" and 200lbs with a dark complexion and facial hair. He was last seen wearing a baseball hat and a white baggy T-shirt. The second suspect is described as 5'10" and 150lbs and has black hair with cowhairs. He was last seen wearing a black jacket and black pants.

A laptop and money was also stolen earlier the same day from a resident's room in St. Joseph's College. Staff and residents of the College ask that any suspicious people in the area be reported and are reminding each other to always leave their rooms and offices secure.

If you have any information about either incident, call contact Campus Security at 492-5050, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS.

New program makes sense of drugs

Though problems can arise from similar-sounding and similar-looking drug names, one U of A professor has developed a way to work around confusion

MIKE GARVIE
News Writer

A pair of programs developed by U of A computing science professor Greg Kondrak are paving the way to make your next visit to the pharmacy a little less confusing.

Kondrak's new programs, ALINE and BI SIM, work respectively to compare the similarity of sound and spelling of words with the hope that government branches, such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), can use the programs in order to develop dissimilar drug names to reduce confusion for consumers.

In 2001, the US Pharmacopoeia, the official authority in the United States for setting public standards of various health care products including pharmaceutical drugs, reported a list of 750 drug names deemed to be confusing to the USP Medication Errors Reporting Program (MER). This list was forwarded to the FDA, who sought Kondrak's assistance a few years ago through the Project Performance Corporation (PPC).

Similar-sounding or similar-looking drug names account for roughly 15 per cent of all reports to the MER Program,

and accounted for 1.3 million medical-related injuries in 2002.

"The responsibility for approving the drug names belongs to the FDA, not to the drug companies who are interested in developing short names," he said.

There's also growing concern over foreign drugs imported into the United States with similar drug names. The FDA cites the example of the United Kingdom drug Ambien, a brand name for amiodarone which is used to treat abnormal heart rhythms. If Ambien is prescribed in error instead of the US drug Ambien, a sleep medication, there could be serious consequences, a problem Kondrak's program can help resolve as new drugs are developed.

The programs, which are algorithms, or recursive computational procedures to solve problems in a finite number of steps, can also deal with multilingual issues.

"My program first of all translates these names into pronunciation, and the pronunciation will differ with each language," Kondrak said.

"Because there are so many people speaking Spanish in the US, the FDA requested a Spanish version of

[ALINE]."

The University of Alberta's DrugBank operates with similar intent, as an online database containing a list of both drugs and their functions. Co-founder Dr David Wishart said the website was developed originally for researchers, but also serves as a valuable tool for patients.

"What more and more people are doing is taking control of their own health," said Wishart. "No physician knows everything about every drug, and I think health care improves if patients know more about their health and about their treatment."

But Wishart cautioned that the website is supplemental, not a substitute, for proper health care.

"It's a matter of self-diagnosis, that's one thing, but knowing what to prescribe is another. Making a prescription is something that technically only physicians can do, one for liability reasons, and two, [because] they know your history."

ALINE was developed in 2000 as part of Kondrak's PhD research, with BI SIM following in 2003. DrugBank was four years in its development as part of Genome Canada's Human Metabolome Project.

SU President-elect looks forward to next year

POWER - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And with VP (Academic)-elect Amanda Henry, already working as the Associate VP (Academic), and VP (External)-elect Dave Cournoyer as SU researchers, Power is eager to start developing goals for next year.

"I'm excited about the carry over, [because] we have the opportunity to get them involved in the portfolio before they take office officially on 1 May," she explains.

Power also admits that, aside from her campaign platform, her last

"When I'm campaigning, I definitely get that a lot: some people don't think it's my real name. They're like, 'Did you change it for the campaign?'"

SAMANTHA POWER

name may have also played a role in drawing the attention of voters.

"When I'm campaigning, I definitely get that a lot: some people don't think it's my real name. They're like, 'Did you change it for the campaign?'"

In fact, some of her favourite moments during the election happened while campaigning. "A lot of people are really fun to talk to. I ran into a group of guys in CAB who want me to change the PowerPlant into a McDonald's," she recalls.



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OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • Tuesday, 14 March, 2006

Questions remain in smoking ban

LAST WEEK, STUDENTS on this campus—or, well, about an eighth of the students on this campus—voted in favour of a complete tobacco ban, supporting a resolution to both discontinue the sale of tobacco products by SU businesses and, more importantly, to forbid anyone to smoke within our borders. Now, strictly speaking, the vote was non-binding—because it was only a plebiscite, the SU isn't obligated to follow the resolution, and the vote serves more or less like an opinion poll of the campus. This much is fortunate, because before this tobacco ban actually goes through, there are some serious concerns that need to be addressed.

Now, before I continue, I'll admit that I don't quite understand the point of a complete tobacco ban on campus. While I understand—though still don't support—a ban on the sale of tobacco, I don't believe it's the University's/SU's purview to tell people what they can and can't do, as long as they aren't harming others, and the idea that a smoker in Quad is harming anyone but him or herself is fairly ridiculous (equally ridiculous, of course, are the claims that tobacco smoke is in any way similar to things like crack or heroin, a comparison which came up far too often on a campus of people who are supposed to be rational thinkers).

I also don't really believe that inconveniencing smokers stops any but the most tenuously social, and I think the ban on smoking in bars has probably already killed most of that group. Having said this, I'm not also a smoker, so I don't actually lose anything by not being able to light up the cigarettes I'm not smoking.

My personal bias aside, though, there are plenty of other legitimate concerns brought up about the ban that frankly went unaddressed throughout the campaign. First and foremost, the simple fact is that smokers are going to go smoke somewhere, and considering our campus is bordered by the river valley and some of Edmonton's nicest neighbourhoods, it's quite possible that where those smokers go is going to have an adverse effect on our relationship with the rest of the city. Now, I think this is probably an entirely solvable problem, but I haven't even heard it as much as addressed by anyone in support of the ban, let alone any solutions proposed.

There is also the issue of personal safety. A fair number of students and staff stay on campus quite late—especially if, you know, they live here—and it's fairly obvious that they're far safer standing outside the main door of Lister than wandering off onto side streets for a quick smoke. Then there's the fact that the campus includes the area around the hospital, a place where most of the residents can't exactly just get up and walk ten blocks to avoid polluting campus air. One also might want to consider what a smoking ban would do to our already-fledgling campus bars: sure it's banned inside, but there's a rather large difference between having to step outside the door to smoke and having to walk six blocks for the same privilege, and it's quite possible their walk might end up just outside Scholar's.

Again, these are probably solvable concerns, but nowhere during all this talk of a smoking ban has anyone brought them up, let alone offered any solutions. It's quite easy to high-mindedly blather on about helping even one person to quit smoking; it's an awful lot harder to deal with the fact that there are a few thousand others who won't, and something's going to have to be done about them.

DAVID BERRY
Managing Editor

Different shade of stupid

THE DAY OF THE ELECTION, campus was strewn with rash and ill-considered letters from Matthew Eaton, Michelle Kelly's campaign manager, which attempted to explain the absurdity of disqualifying a candidate over just "a bottle of green paint."

This semi-literate document, released without Ms Kelly's knowledge, only added insult to the injury sustained in her disqualification. Mr Eaton failed to realize that painting one's arms green and outlining the subtle difference between matte and pearlescent paint is not only immature, but is an embarrassment to the democratic process.

MATT FREHNER
Photo Editor

LETTERS

Apologies from Michelle Kelly

I'm sorry to all of you who were going to come out to support me in this election and were left disappointed. This hasn't been easy. There are a hundred scenarios I've gone over in my head as to how I would have done things differently.

Was there a different way I could have presented my argument regarding campaign expenditures that would have convinced DIE board to rule in my favour? If I had simply returned the bottle of paint and presented the nothingness that was the lack of a bottle of paint and a receipt instead of bringing the bottle to the CRO, would that have been enough? If I had looked over the budget before it was turned in, would I have caught the paint discrepancy?

In the end, while I disagree with the DIE board decision, I don't believe that an appeal of their ruling is in order. Regardless, I don't know how many times, and for how long, I can endure crushing blows that leave me disqualified or hanging in limbo.

Please accept my deepest apologies, and thank you to all of you who have e-mailed, phoned or spoken to me in person. Your support has been humbling and astounding.

MICHELLE KELLY
Arts Councillor
Disqualified Presidential Candidate

CRO hypocritical in disqualifying Kelly

What a disgusting decision by the CRO to disqualify Michelle Kelly from the race for SU President because she spent a whopping \$606 over the allowed campaign budget of \$500.

Why am I disgusted by the decision? Because not only did Kelly get disqualified for such a small amount of money, but also because it appears that the CRO had a double standard when it came to such an issue. Why allow Theresa Chapman to take a campaign expense off her budget but deny the same thing to Kelly when she attempted to get back under budget (she wanted to take off the expenses accrued for an unused can of paint)?

I must also say that I'm very disappointed in the decision made by the Gateway editorial staff to include Steve Smith and David Berry's feature, "SU Indecision 2006," in the election-day issue of the Gateway (9 March). Telling voters, one of the days for the elections, which candidates they should vote for, and how they should vote in the plebiscite, is wrong. Especially coming from the only newspaper on campus.

I realize that Mr Smith and Mr Berry mentioned in their feature that anyone using their words as a guide shouldn't be voting. But I find it hard to believe that some students would have followed their advice on this point. After all, the whole point of endorsing a candidate or position is to try to influence the outcome of the election. So please leave your endorsements to yourself next SU election, Gateway staff.

SCOTT ABBY
Science V

Disqualification shows why no one cares about SU politics

Wednesday morning, when I walking by the elections booths and saw the signs "Michelle Kelly has been disqualified," I immediately started wondering what she possibly could have done. Did she kill someone? Did she club a baby seal? Did she propose an actual platform? It was rather anticlimactic when Thursday morning rolled around and I discovered that the crime she committed was to spend \$606 too much on her campaign.

In this case, however, the truth is even more ridiculous than my exciting made-up alternatives. More perversely, it shows the flaws of the Students' Union and the reasons why students don't bother to vote. The Students' Union is mired with rules and regulations, and from the outside it seems the only thing they change are the rules and regulations. Little attention seems to be devoted to actually changing campus for the better.

I don't care if Michelle Kelly spent \$606 too much on her campaign. It's not because I disagree with the \$500 cap, or the 5 to 1 fine imposed for missing meetings, but because I'm disgusted with the fact that those rules were so set in stone that a presidential candidate who devoted considerable time and effort to her campaign was disqualified on the basis of spending \$606 too much on her campaign, even though she made an honest effort to stay within it (as demonstrated by her initial budget of \$496.06).

The case is obviously not one where the candidate deliberately ignored the spirit of the rule. This should be the deciding factor, but that the wording of bylaw 2100 (or whatever fuckin' number it is) implies this or that.

As for the "dangerous precedent" this sets, I think the actual precedent that should be set is that the Students' Union isn't just stuck up about the regulations, but wants to change campus for the better.

KIOSH ISLIN
Political Science I

Kelly's disqualification amounts to malicious prosecution

I'm writing this letter to describe how upset I am that Michelle Kelly was disqualified over a minor campaign expenditure.

I believe the DIE Board's decision is an example of poor discretion, and a precedent for malicious prosecution. If the Government of Saskatchewan regularly renews drivers' licenses five months in advance—an illegal act—and allows former residents who live on the Alberta side of Uleydminster, and in cases Edmonton, to use Saskatchewan Health Insurance for ten years, I'm sure the Discipline and Enforcement Board at the University of Alberta could bend the rules as well.

TYLER PITTMAN
Science III

Thanks for tasteful reporting, Fedio

Kudos must be given to Chloé Fedio and the Gateway for the tasteful way they reported the Jesus comic story in the 9 March edition (Re: "U of S student paper on defensive after publishing Jesus comic").

Many lesser papers would consider possibly reprinting the cartoon to add to the commentary surrounding it. This was the case with the "Muhammad cartoons" as they were published in the Alberta-based

political magazine the Western Standard, and other international publications. It was the international reprinting of these cartoons that fuelled the fires behind many of the worldwide protests.

Chloé Fedio and the Gateway have shown that it's possible to responsibly report the news without adding to the fervour surrounding it. This approach puts the Gateway above other papers in regards to style and journalistic merit.

SHANE FRASER
Science II

SUB doesn't solve problems with Aramark, Tobias

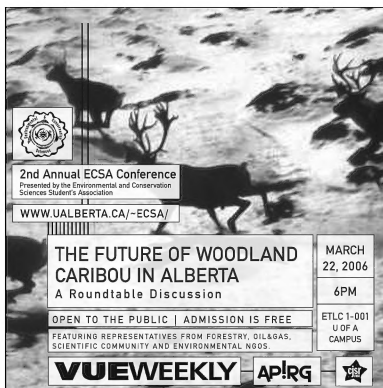
I'm writing in response to Jason Tobias' comments in the 7 March article, "Aramark not only option."

I sure hope it was a shameless ploy to get more people to eat in SUB so that Mr VP Operations and Finance has more money to play around with. Otherwise, we have truly ignorant people running the Students' Union. Tobias makes it seem that Aramark's high prices and low quality are no reason to complain or ask for change, and seems to suggest that all of us Listerites can simply walk to SUB for each of our three meals of the day and any other snacks that we might want, because there's so much variety there.

Obviously he doesn't realize that, in coming to Lister, we agree to pay a certain amount for food to be provided to us, and that we should not have to walk across campus to enjoy some quality. We also shouldn't be worried about having to spend thousands of dollars on this low-quality food. And, frankly, SUB's prices aren't that cheap either, especially if that's what you're eating for nearly every meal.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 6





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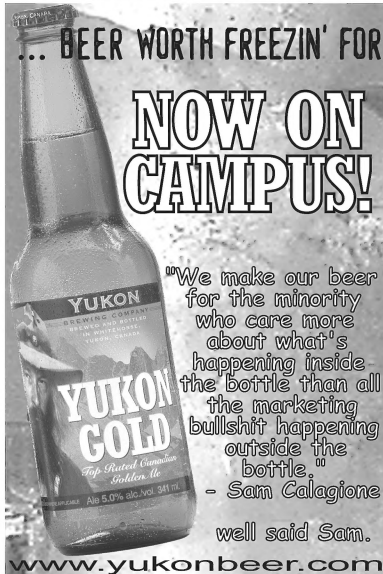
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Canada's hate crime laws not toys



PATRICK ROSS

As such things often do, the chronicle of the infamous Prophet Muhammad cartoons has continued to escalate in Canada, as the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada recently filed a religion-based human rights complaint against the Western Standard and the Jewish Free Press.

The complaint, recently dismissed by Calgary's chief crown prosecutor, alleged that the reprinting of the cartoons provoked hate e-mail directed against Muslims. The Western Standard had reprinted a number of the cartoons in an article addressing the refusal of many mainstream media outlets to print the cartoons. The Jewish Free Press reprinted them as a part of an article about the initial reaction to the printing of these cartoons.

"We see these cartoons as racist," said Syed Sohrawardy, the president of the ISCC. "We see these cartoons as hurtful, and we see these cartoons as against our religion. There have been damages towards the Muslim community for losing their peace of mind, and creating stress on people's heart."

Western Standard publisher Ezra Levant responded by taking up the flags of freedom of speech and journalistic integrity, claiming, "We're running [the cartoons] because they're the central fact that caused Muslim radicals around the world to riot. If you have the picture and you're trying to tell the story, show the picture."

For Levant, claiming that his

reprinting of these cartoons doesn't reek of insensitivity may be a tough sell. The Western Standard is the same publication that recently claimed Colleen Klein would be "just another indian" once her husband is no longer premier—and attributed the comment to an "anonymous source."

Naturally, both of these decisions have drawn a great deal of criticism toward both Levant and his publication, which some people have accused of being intolerant.

The ISCC, on the other hand, was clearly trying to stretch the meaning of a hate crime to suit their purposes. The law forbids the willful promoting or inciting of hatred against any identifiable group—which, given the prosecutor's decision, wasn't present.

Levant, an outspoken opponent of Canada's hate-crime laws, has suggested that this case may force these laws into the spotlight, and force Canadians to question their validity once and for all. As for all, it isn't hard to imagine that the decision to reprint the cartoons may have been made in order to intentionally provoke a hate-crime complaint. The ISCC, on the other hand, was clearly trying to stretch the meaning of a hate crime

to suit their purposes. The law forbids the willful promoting or inciting of hatred against any identifiable group—which, given the prosecutor's decision, wasn't present. Levant claims that the ISCC was only trying to intimidate publishers from printing these controversial cartoons—and it's possible that he was right.

Hate-crime laws serve an integral purpose in Canadian society. They help us to ensure an environment (relatively) free of intolerance for those in our society who are most vulnerable to it. Abandoning them, as Levant seems to want, will only make those most vulnerable to intolerance more so, and our society wouldn't be a better place for it. Likewise, strengthening hate-crime laws and potentially making them oppressive wouldn't solve any problems, either. Using Canada's hate-crime laws in the way that the ISCC has risks leading Canada down the road to becoming an oppressive state.

Ezra Levant and Syed Sohrawardy were playing a dangerous and irresponsible game of tug-of-war with Canada's hate-crime laws. While it may not be entirely reasonable to complain that these laws violate the ideal of freedom of speech (no freedom comes without responsibility), it's equally unreasonable to assert that the reprinting of controversial and offensive cartoons (or supposedly) journalistic purposes constitutes a hate crime.

Challenging the law is one thing—this is the means by which we determine whether or not a law is just. But it seems that both sides in this dispute were simply trying to engineer the law to suit their own specific intentions. No one in any democratic society should be allowed to do this. Canada's hate-crime laws must be kept free from private interests.

Those voting for on-campus smoking ban nothing but hypocrites

In response to those who voted to ban smoking and smokers on campus, I charge them with hypocrisy! This same group of people, who—at every opportunity, and without fail—espouse mandatory tolerance, and who stand generally united against supposed justices that define our modern era, these same people have given themselves over to the darkness of totalitarianism that they rally against.

Walking the line between egalitarianism and oppression, you've taken a minority group that exists on campus, marginalized them and sent them packing. It proves that man-made ideas such as tolerance aren't universal and don't exist. Tolerance for those who agree with us, and damn the rest of you! Next will be peanuts, perfume, and tacky Ché Guevara t-shirts.

Congratulations on winning the war to "Take back the air!"

JASON WAYMITHA
Open Studies

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Now, don't get me wrong, I eat in SUB for lunch a lot, and I'll surely miss the pasta I get at L'express when I'm back home for the summer, but by simply overlooking the problem and not even addressing it in his response, Tobias is just plain being ignorant.

Mr Tobias, try eating this food for a couple of weeks and you'll see what we're talking about. We're not expecting gourmet five-course meals, or breakfast in bed. We expect the food provider, be it Aramark or anyone else, to follow through with their end of the deal and provide us with quality food that's relatively good for us at reasonable prices.

MELISSA BAILL
Arts I

Lilwall still clueless

I just read the online article by Mr Scott Lilwall, regarding Mr McCartney (Re: "McCartneys don't have a clue about seal hunt," 7 March).

The article reads, (in reference to Mr Lilwall's playing strategies of the game Clue) "I always lost at the game, because I had a fundamental flaw in my playing style—I never waited until all of the facts were in before I made my accusation." Sadly, Mr Lilwall again loses the game.

Regardless of whether it brings in a few bucks to some unemployed Newfoundlanders, this hunt will only hurt Newfoundland—and Canada as a whole—financially in the long run. This will happen due to the international perception that we Canadians are a bunch of hideous animal abusers.

I'm a Newfoundlander from a long line of seal hunters and fishermen. The DFO's "experts" have mismanaged the fishery in Newfoundland for many

years. Before their involvement, there were millions of cod and millions of seals. There was no lack of cod because of seals (until we killed all the cod ourselves). It's the human greed, overfishing, dragnets, pollution of our waters with bilge oil from ships and poaching that's killed off the Newfoundland fisheries, not the seals.

It doesn't take much of a "clue" to figure out this one.

NADINE SAUNDERS
Hinton, Alberta

Why no love for the Pandas, Troughton?

The Gateway raved about the Pandas hockey team when they had a 110-game undefeated streak, but apparently being ranked first nationally and having a 23-game undefeated streak just isn't enough to get the Gateway excited.

Jake Troughton's article about the team on Thursday, March 9 ("Hockey Pandas not the biggest fish on the frozen pond this weekend at nationals") was a completely unfair attack on the team which leaves the few people who read the Gateway sports section with a bad opinion about the hard-working players and coaches on the team.

It's kind of ironic that the same day the article was printed, the team opened their games at nationals with a 5-0 win against the Toronto Varsity Blues. Although there is no way Troughton would have been able to predict the score of the Pandas' first game at nationals, he should have had more faith in a team that has surpassed the expectations of many over the past season.

CAROLYNN BREAKLEY
Phys Ed II

Maybe Kelly's removal was for the best

Michelle Kelly may not have had the financial savvy necessary to run the SU



EVAN
SMITH

You see my dilemma—I backed myself into a logical corner where I can only vote for the alternative Greg German or Max Power's bride. The option to not vote was beaten out of me by my Social 30 teacher and his assistant, Mr Axehandle. But the logic held.

Six bucks. Sucks don't it? It's just another inevitable nail in democracy's cheap plywood caulk. I mean, in the past months, we've had the fall of the Liberals, the only presidential duel not to involve flintlocks and now what may be the world's first single-digit budget scandal.

Initially, I was annoyed. My standard practice of voting for the most Avril Lavigne-like candidate no longer made things easier. "Six bucks," I thought, "What a silly reason to lose an election." Hell, that's not even a quarter of what I make every time I roundhouse kick a vending machine. But then I did something completely unusual for an opinion writer. I engaged in a process known as sober second thought, an idea thought up by my grandfather while he was cleaning paintbrushes in his poorly ventilated basement. After much deliberation, I actually agreed with the board's decision to drop Kelly from the election.

Really, the only reason I was pissed in the first place was because my candidate was knocked out of the running.

Okay. So the pickle paint fiasco is a massive kick in the teeth for the electoral process. Still, by letting Kelly stay in the running you tumble onto a slippery slope. Future candidates could take half-used felts and bits of leftover strings off of their budget to save up for bribes. It comes down to the fact that, regardless of external circumstance, the budget went over the limit, period.

Really, the only reason I was pissed in the first place was because my candidate was knocked out of the running. It may have been a blessing in disguise, though. Kelly couldn't even

keep a bottle of paint off the books. How could she expect to keep hidden the secret dealings and under-the-table deals with the mafia typical of the SU? I know of at least ten unmarked graves in the river valley from Power's campaign alone.

And I won't even go into the solutions Greg and his crew came up with for electoral difficulties. I won't dare imply that there were plans, once elected, to burn down the SU offices, or add dead kitty to RATT's menu. That would be unfair and not at all in the spirit of this article. Still, the criticism stands.

Students' Union president is a job where even the slightest oversight can piss off Travel Cuts. The bottle of paint was either the straw that broke the camel's back, or a prelude to the "Oh Fuck We're Sixty Grand in Debt" Scandal of '07. Kelly may have been cute on the Gateway front covers, but cute doesn't a good president make.

So Power took it. Both the election and my vote—the two are very likely related. Heck, why not? Power's Posse is a much better nickname than Lockers of Letter. Democracy may be running on its last legs, but thankfully we got some chicks on the bench before it falls face first into the mud. At least future kings won't think we were sexist.

It's time to shut down the oven, Grannie

A 62-year-old grandmother was artificially impregnated. What the hell?!



RAMON
OSTAD

a child at 62? I hate the be one to say it, but there isn't a single person who should have a child in their 60s. There's a reason women are discouraged to have children after the age of 37—the most pertinent being that it can lead to numerous congenital problems for the child. I mean menopause has it right there in the word—"men-on-pause." Especially when you have so many grand- and great-grandkids to spoil with candy and money and stories of how their mommies got pregnant. Why can't you be content with the enormous family you already have?

Of course, I must be some sort of "radical leftist" to suggest that some people shouldn't have children. Just the media attention this woman has received suggests that she should be applauded. Why is it that society takes on this view of birth by any means necessary? Why is this kind of thing always so widely rewarded when there are literally tens of thousands of children in North America alone who are unhealthy, homeless, unwanted and unwanted? If you really wanted a child at 60, you should just adopt one. Or hell, sponsor one from a foreign country—one Angelina Jolie hasn't already pillaged. If you really want to be a revolutionary, how about doing what so many others don't, and taking in a child who never had family, and making them part of yours, instead of leaving them alienated and alone?

I'm not even sure what drives these people. There seems to be this frighteningly expanding list of past-prime mothers who care more about having someone depend on them than actually having a healthy family. Is this some sort of new-fangled mid-life crisis that mothers go through when they realize that, after years of being depended on, they have no one left to take care of but themselves? If so, what does it say about people when they need so badly to feel needed that they are blind to those who have actual needs? I'm sorry if I sound preachy, but maybe the thought of

kids going hungry while some crazy, selfish old woman decides she needs to repopulate the earth pisses me off just a little bit.

The irony here is that people like that make me feel better about my future as a parent. When my wife and I have our meager family consisting of two children and perhaps a dog with a clichéd name—like Max, or Rover, or Mr Bojangles—I'll be able to look myself in the mirror and, just for a brief moment, think that maybe I've done good by them.



There are certain items in a dapper man's wardrobe that can't be treated in the same cavalier "wash 'n' dry" manner as the rest of his closet. So it was with some trepidation and a small measure of pride that I took my beloved coat to the dry cleaners.

Now, I understand that there's a certain amount of risk inherent in dry cleaning. Apparently they use chemicals that only act according to the laws of physics most of the time. Apparently there could be stains, or a change in texture. They even warn you about it.

What they didn't say, however, was that my coat might be returned to me with the texture resembling a cheese grater. They also didn't say the clerk would be so happy about it.

Ordinarily this would be where I'd throw her into the sack, but instead, I think she should just wear my coat. It's now worse than burlap.

TIM PEPPIN

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.



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We have the right to bear arms, but we might be better off without them



PHIL
HEAD

"Of course there will be much controversy and butting of heads over this proposal, with upstanding citizens unlikely to take this lying down. Therefore, before this is carried out, a joint task force would have to find out how we could cope with the loss of fingers in this digital age."

With a Conservative government now in power, the issues of gun control and the gun registry that Westerners have been incessantly harping about will likely be re-examined. Critics of gun control claim that criminals can still get their hands on guns, and point out that by no means do firearms have a stranglehold on the position of most common murder weapon in Canada.

If the Conservatives hope to keep their campaign promise to be tough on crime, they must re-examine the right to bear arms—specifically, the ones attached to your torso.

Whether it's through gun shots, stabbings or beatings, most murders are committed using arms and the hands that are linked to them. Only by removing the arms of all criminals and potential criminals (and thus their ability to use weapons) will we as a society be secure.

Think of it as an extension of the practice, found in some other societies with strong traditional values, of cutting off a thief's hands. This is the best way to fight crime, hands down.

Of course there will be much controversy and butting of heads over this proposal, with upstanding citizens unlikely to take this lying down. Therefore, before this is carried out, a

joint task force would have to find out how we could cope with the loss of fingers in this digital age.

You don't have to go out on a limb to predict that major changes will occur in our society following the disarmament of the no-longer-entire Canadian population. For instance, with arms eliminated, certain activities such as boxing may disappear. However, advances in automated manufacturing will ensure that orders for containers continue to be filled.

Besides, who really needs arms in this age of automatic doors? If pie-eating contests have proven anything, it's that you need nothing but your mouth to consume food, although it can be about 3.14 times messier.

Surprisingly, there will be little constitutional mess. While Québecers typically object to English Canada telling them what to do, ultimately they'll be won over when they realize that women will be walking around without bras.

Although our army will be left short-handed, the military can continue to protect our country with an elite group of foot soldiers, while police continue to make sure that citizens toe the line.

Of course, even after the amputa-

tions, we'll have to eliminate all psychics to preserve our safety, as being forewarned is forearmed. However, if we're lucky, they'll see what's coming and, armed with this knowledge, will leave of their own accord.

Many people abuse their right to bare arms, leading to high skin-cancer rates, and put a strain on our health care system when they then, ironically, expect coverage. Thus, through amputation, these flaky fashionists will have their access to the sun blocked.

While the right to bare arms will no longer exist, the right to arm bears will be expanded. While bearclaws can be tasty as pastries, when wielded by an Ursus they can be *Majesty* powerful. Therefore, highly trained bears packing heat would be effective at securing our borders, as well as preventing poaching.

Unfortunately, poultry farmers would likely scramble to protect their eggs from having limits placed on their preparation by a bunch of Benedict Arnolds in Ottawa and thus would cause the Conservatives to lose their rural base, putting an end to further attempts at arms control. Only time will tell if the next Liberal government will be willing to shoulder this responsibility.

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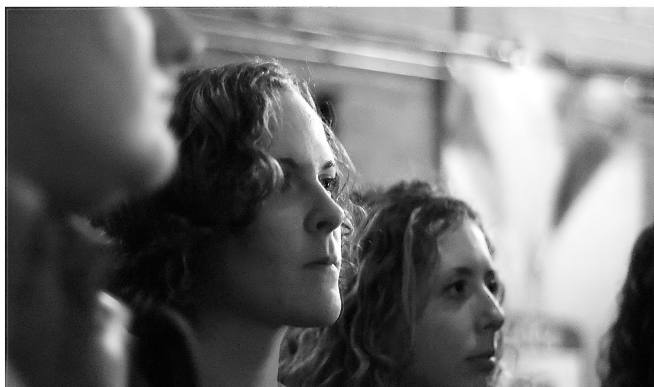


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Fear and Loathing concluded: Election results through Dave's pint glass

Feature by David Berry
Photos by Ashley Scuffett, Phil Head and Shivan de Silva



I'd like to say that I've experienced something like it before, but in all honesty, I don't think I have. Gathered around a faux-snowy dance floor (it was Kokanee night at the Plant, evidently) the 13 candidates for the SU executive clenched half-empty glasses, huddled into the arms of significant others, and stared—if they were blinking, I never caught one of them doing it—at the otherwise insignificant girl on stage who was ready to announce their futures. Dressed markedly different from the blue-leisure-suit Kokanee girls sashaying around, Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woyonowski stood, a microphone held loosely in her right hand, her left hand firmly grasping a stack of papers that may as well of have been a loaded gun.

About 90 minutes earlier, the same candidates had begun slowly filing into the PowerPlant, draping jackets around chairs, ordering on-special beer and making innocuous chat with whoever happened to be around. Campaign managers—those who weren't off on the other side of campus, scrutinizing ballots, to make sure everything went smoothly—exchanged mundane stories, half-hearted jokes and encouraging words with each other. While most of the candidates milled around the main area, a few gazed over the pool room, pinned glasses in hand, feigning a quiet confidence, eyes focused on something that certainly wasn't anywhere near the green felt they seemed to be looking at. Rarely did they admit—even to themselves—that they were nervous, but had a firecracker gone off outside, 13 people would have needed a change of pants. Chris Samuel boasted of winning 90 per cent of the vote, claiming he was going to "beat this election like I beat Contra—I don't even need the code!" Even the most assured of candidates, though, had a certain electricity underneath his demeanour, an overconfidence that was more compensatory than honest.

The nervous energy, curiously, actually seemed to subside when the first whispers went through the crowd that the results were on their way. A calm settled over the gathered, marathon runners finally cresting the last hill, welcoming the sight of the finishing line, even if there wasn't necessarily red tape strewn across it. They were visibly more relaxed, audibly more joyous. Somewhere deep inside, I think, they realized that, at the very least, they could stop worrying. The past three weeks—in some cases, longer—would finally come to an end, and even when we've had a bad day, it's still a relief to pull up the covers and let it drift into memory.

The worst storms come after the calm, though, and the eye passed over the candidates not 15 minutes later, when the first of the scrutineers made their way through the collection of Listeries and friends to their respective candidates. The speakers heaved out the steel drum of "Hey Ladies," but the spinning disco lights practically had to cut through the silence that had enveloped the candidates. By the time Rachel made her way past the bouncer, a lit match was all that stood between a bar and smoking rubble. The front part of the Plant was probably only about half-full, but it was almost impossible to move through the crowd, everyone rooted into place, an extra 300 pounds of tension standing right next to them.

The music had been killed, and now Rachel stood on stage, surprisingly calm for someone who had 100 pairs of eyes following every move. "We'll go opposite to ballot order," she announced. I can't speak to her other abilities, but at least she has a healthy sense of drama.

First up were the petitions. The smoking ban drew a healthy cheer, though one disgusted patron behind me decried the

"fucking Nazis" who voted in favour. Fists pounded tables and hollers went out when it was announced that PAC was defeated; a generally joyous mood settled over the crowd, for a second forgetting that there was more to come. The acclamation races went next. Chris Samuel burst onto the dance floor, screaming, when his 86 per cent approval rating was announced. "You fuckers owe me money!" was all I could make out before he pulled himself back together and resumed his place behind the set-up counter, satisfied to his core. Amanda Henry was considerably more subdued, though her smile was as genuine as I've ever seen.

Now, real drama. No one had actually lost anything, yet. Now, jubilation is matched up with disappointment, and every raised hand corresponds to a lowered head, or two.

Omer Yusuf came quite near to exploding; his arms shot up, and a scream of almost pure joy burst forth. His campaign team embraced him, but I doubt he felt it. He likely would have died on the spot if the second ballot had reversed itself—he celebrated one announcement too early—but in the end, he got to keep his smile: the type of smile that normally has a cigar sticking out of one end.

Dave Courmoyer has a less expressive face, but he had his own way of celebrating. His arms wrapped around his girlfriend as the announcement was made, he squeezed her hard and kissed her cheek. She turned to meet his face. I have no knowledge of their love life, but she'll probably have to marry the guy to get kissed that happily again. Three weeks of stress poured out of him in that moment; when he straightened up, he looked two inches taller.

Chris Cunningham probably left a bruise on his friend's hand. The clap easily broke above the polite applause, and any further doubts as to his feelings were removed with the howl he let out. He doesn't strike me as the type prone to hugs, but his right arm squeezed hard around his friend's back, his bicep tense, then loosened with his own sigh. He remained fairly reserved after that, but his smile never once died out.

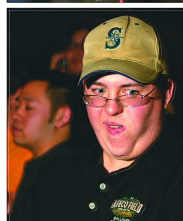
Sam Power was perhaps the most stately—she was, most likely, the most reserved of anyone running to begin with. Her eyes gave her away, though. They were prankster's eyes, ready and willing to laugh at anything. Her smile was ready but small, her posture more relaxed but restrained: her eyes, though, widened. She was gracious in every other respect: her eyes were screaming louder than any of the other candidates could have mustered.

Rachel gave the mic back to the gelled-up MC, who advertised the Kokanee special. Kanye West announced the return of the speaker system. The room lost weight, interested onlookers shuffled away, candidates turned into themselves. Handshakes greeted the winners, consolations for the unselected. Drinks came from behind the bar faster on all accounts, either to drown sorrows or fuel celebrations. Cam Lewis was a firm hug away from collapsing. Blythe Morrow smiled through sad eyes, Damini Mohan broke out of a self-induced shell, not happy, but certainly not down. Candidates slowly dispersed, retreating to the back of the bar, or to points beyond. The Kokanee girls became the centre of attention again, and the Plant went back to being the half-empty bar that had caused so much consternation through the campaign. Three weeks of stress, speeches and crushing workloads dissipated into club hits and dancing drunkards. University life goes on, only vaguely aware of what's taken place. I don't think you'll find one of them who's upset about that.

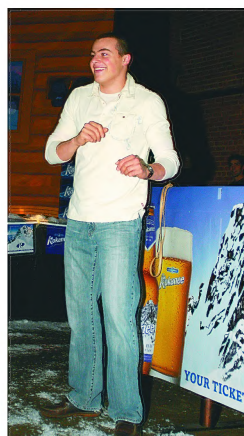
pictures on next page



Chris Samuel boasted of winning 90 per cent of the vote, claiming he was going to “beat this election like I beat Contra—I don’t even need the code!”



Handshakes greeted the winners, consolations for the unelected. Drinks came from behind the bar faster on all accounts, either to drown sorrows or fuel celebrations.



SPORTS

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Hockey Pandas reclaim national championship

Alberta battles its way to CIS final, exacts revenge on Wilfrid Laurier in dramatic game; Tarin Podloski named tournament MVP



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THE KAVERIAN WEEKLY (CUP)
GOLDEN PANDAS Jennifer Newton (left) celebrates a goal against Wilfrid Laurier in the CIS final.

DANIELLE SHUGARUE
The Xaverian Weekly

ANTIGONISH (CUP)—After a season of being haunted by their loss to the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks in last year's CIS final, the Pandas hockey team was finally able to exorcise the demon with a 2-1 victory over the Hawks on Sunday to reclaim the women's national championship.

"It's a tremendous feeling. It's a very, very good feeling," exclaimed Pandas head coach Howie Draper. "This was our goal, this is what we came for."

The Pandas entered the CIS women's hockey championship wanting gold, and they wanted to defeat Wilfrid Laurier to win it. Last year at the championship, Laurier beat the Pandas in the final, ending their three-year championship run. The Pandas lost several key players after last season and fought hard to make it back to final.

"We worked hard all year, and knew we'd have to keep that up in the finals against Laurier," explained an emotionally overwhelmed Tarin Podloski, who was named the tournament MVP. The second-year forward put forth a dominant showing through nationals, as she led the tournament in scoring with a goal and four assists. Draper felt that the 19-year-old national team member's best days as a Panda are still ahead of her.

"I think we saw, particularly this weekend, that she was a threat every time she was on the ice," he said. "I think she's still got a lot more in her. This is the tip of the iceberg with her. In the next three years, we're going to see that she'll turn into a phenomenal player. She's speaking up in the dressing room, she's doing all the things

she needs to do as a student and an athlete that you need to do to get better."

Laurier head coach Rick Osborne credited his team as well as the Pandas.

"I'm extremely proud of our players. You can't get any closer in the finals," said Osborne, who has led the Hawks to three-straight OUA banners, in addition to consecutive trips to the national final. "I give the credit to Alberta, they played hard."

Alberta opened the tournament with a commanding 5-0 shutout over the University of Toronto Varsity Blues, with four of the goals scored in the first period. Deanna Iwanicka had two goals in the game, complimented by singles from Jenna Barber, Podloski and Kristen Hagg.

The Pandas' second game would not be as easy, as they faced the host St FX X-Women in front of a sold-out crowd. St FX opened the scoring in the first period on a goal by Rebecca Davies, but the Pandas came back halfway through the second frame on a hard-fought short-handed goal from veteran Lindsay McAlpine. Both teams came out full of emotion in the third, and just 44 seconds in, Alberta was given the go-ahead goal from player of the game Jennifer Newton. It didn't take St FX long to answer, when Brayden Ferguson tied the game with 2:18 left.

Overtime settled nothing, so the teams went to a shootout, where Mia Mucci scored the goal that sent the Pandas to the final.

Along with tournament MVP honours, Podloski was named to the tournament all-star team, as was fellow Panda Kristina Kother.

The Pandas will look to begin a new run with the championship title at the 2007 tournament, which will be held in Ottawa.

Bears hockey trounces Huskies to claim sixth-straight Canada West title

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

Despite their dominance in Canada West hockey for almost a decade, it has been tough sledding for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies when they meet up with the Golden Bears. The games are almost always been intense and edgy affairs, and this weekend's Canada West final between the two rivals was no different, as the Bears swept the best-of-three series by scores of 2-0 on Friday and a blowout 6-1 win on Saturday. The wide margin seemed to irk the Huskies, who turned up their physical play when the lead became insurmountable.

"There's a healthy respect for each other out there," said Bears head coach Eric Thurston. "Our guys have been through games like these before and they're not going to get intimidated."

With the sweep of the Huskies, Alberta has won six-straight conference titles and would have qualified for nationals, had they not already qualified as hosts. For the Huskies, who had already secured a berth in nationals by advancing to the Canada West final, the way they lost their cool and the game on Saturday will linger. However, Saskatchewan head coach Dave Adolph doesn't believe it will have any effect on his team at nationals.

"I've been in this league 25 years, and I remember this team losing 8-1 in the Canada West final before," said Adolph. "It hasn't affected any part of our program since then. A loss is a loss; you have to put it behind you, because at this point it's 0-0 going into the national championships."

Though both teams are known for their scoring prowess, Friday's game was a goaltender's showdown, as neither Alberta nor Saskatchewan could convert on their scoring chances. This despite the teams combining for seven power plays and 19 shots in the first period, keeping the Bears' Aaron Sorochan and the Huskies' Jeff Harvey busy between the pipes. However, the



REAL WILDING
CANADA WEST CHAMPIONS Ben Kilgour (in white) and the Golden Bears hockey team are unbeaten in their last five games against Saskatchewan.

turning point in the game came just before the end of the second period, as the Bears killed off a five-on-three powerplay chance for the Huskies and then rode that momentum to a goal by Tim Krymusha with just under five minutes left in the period. After that goal, the Bears' defence tightened up and stifled a Huskies offence that boasts two of the top ten scorers in CIS.

"I went down to the defencemen and said, [those penalties] are all from you guys, so kill

it," said Thurston. "Killing off that five-on-three was a momentum change that you feed off of, and not all of the defencemen were on for the goal, but they certainly should get credit for it."

While the first game in the series was a classic playoff match-up, Saturday's game was anything but, as the Bears took advantage of some abnormal undisciplined play from the Huskies to capture the Canada West title. Thanks to three powerplay goals, some stellar net-minding from

Sorochan early on and the 61 minutes in penalties amassed by Saskatchewan, this game was all Alberta after the first period.

"When Brian Bellman scored early in the second, you could see our whole bench just go through the roof, and [Saskatchewan] ran out of gas," said Thurston.

The Bears will attempt to capture their twelfth national title in team history from 23-26 March.

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The nomination deadline is Tuesday, March 14 @ 17:00

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JOHANN BROWN

HE CAN SHOOT HE CAN SCORE You know him, he's Golden Bears' defenceman Chris Ovington.

Ovington named top defender in Canada West

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Staff

Being left with the daunting task of picking out the most impressive defensive player in the talent-jammed Canada West men's hockey conference is not easy.

Every team boasts a qualified candidate who's blessed with size, skill and speed, and each one brings something invaluable to their respective team's success every game. Nevertheless, the officials of Canada West were faced with just this task, and the recipient came in the form of Bears' fifth-year rearguard Chris Ovington.

Ovington, the 26-year-old product of Vernon, BC, became the eleventh Golden Bear to win the Mervyn "Red" Dutton trophy, honouring him as Canada West's most outstanding blueliner, and the second in the last two years, putting him in to the respectable company of ex-Bidminton Oilers' defenceman Randy Gregg and current Bears assistant coach Serge Lajoie. Ovington also finished fourth in scoring among Canada West defencemen and was named a Canada West first-team all-star for his efforts.

"He absolutely deserves every award he receives," says Bears head coach Eric Thurston, after Ovington scored the Bears' sixth and final goal of the game on Saturday night. "It was nice to see him score at the end,

because defencemen like him work hard and do all the small things that don't show up in the scorecard."

"He absolutely deserves every award he receives. It was nice to see him score at the end, because defencemen like him work hard and do all the small things that don't show up in the scorecard."

ERIC THURSTON
BEARS HEAD COACH
ON DOUG OVINGTON

Ovington is a veteran and a team guy in every sense of the word. He played 300 career games in the Western Hockey League for three separate teams (Red Deer, Saskatoon and Spokane) while amassing 78 points. In the WHL, Ovington felt he was able to develop new skills and gain experience through a variety of situations. His potential was recognized in the summer of 1998, when the Florida Panthers took him 148th overall in the NHL entry draft.

"That was a huge high," says Ovington. "It was a great experience for me, but as far as drafting goes, it was only a tiny step towards the NHL. It definitely was a feather in my cap, though." After his time in the 'Dub, Ovington felt that, in order to continue his playing career, coming to the U of A was his best option. "Once I learned that I had a chance to come here, I knew that it would be a mistake not to. If I wanted to continue my career, this was the best situation."

Ovington continued to progress as his years continued with the Bears. Eventually, he and current Bears captain Gavin McLeod became defensive partners, and the two formed a consistent and dependable tandem.

"They kill penalties, run the powerplay and control the tempo. They solve a lot of problems and that speaks volumes," Thurston says.

With Ovington's ability to make an impact on both ends of the ice, the Bears have captured five straight conference championships and one national crown. After working alongside Ovington for the duration of his University career, no one is happier than McLeod to see him get recognized for his efforts.

"Being [Ovington's] teammate and now a great friend, going through some of the struggles we did and now to see him win this award, I'm very happy for him," says McLeod.

Ryerson University men's pucksters missing playoffs, embracing turmoil

ALEX GUIBORD
The Eyeopener

TORONTO (CUP)—At the beginning of the season, Ryerson University's men's hockey coach Mick Mitrovic was confident the Rams would make the playoffs—so much so that he put his job on the line by telling the Eyeopener he would offer his resignation if they didn't.

Instead of playoffs, the team ended the regular season 1-21-1 and finished last place in Ontario.

"It's like a train's been derailed and we're trying to get it back on track," said Mitrovic. "You can't have high morale with loss after loss after loss."

He cited inconsistent focus on and off the ice, frequent penalties, multiple injuries and suspensions as recurring, season-long problems.

"[Players] should be asking themselves key questions: 'How is my conduct? How is my behaviour?' They would rather deflect than reflect," said Mitrovic. "We control the coaching; we don't control the effort."

With twelve rookies in Mitrovic's first full year as head coach, he hoped the acquisitions would make the team an offensive threat. Instead, the Rams had 40 goals for and 159 goals against.

The team finished out its season with only 14 players suited up on 11 February, with an 11-1 loss at Varsity Arena. Grant Buckley, a second-year defenceman, watched the final game from behind the bench with a

bad shoulder.

He said the team does not lack the desire to win games. Instead, he feels the approach to facilitate good chemistry on ice is not working. "It's been a mess. We have no systems on ice, so no wins or chemistry."

"It's nice to hear [the coaching staff] say next year looks good; but, I was told this year was supposed to be good, too."

GRANT BUCKLEY
RYERSON RAMS'
DEFENCEMAN

Forward Adrian Bennett, one of the rookies added to the team in September, agreed.

"Rather than fixing the problem, we don't get a second chance," he said, referring to the coaching staff's "try something new" approach, which includes frequent line changes.

Mitrovic honoured his pre-season promise and left Ryerson athletic director Dave Dubois with the decision to either renew or terminate his services within the program.

"I did offer my resignation, but I never said I would quit," Mitrovic said.

Dubois said he has no intention of

terminating Mitrovic, assuring his full support and the resources of his department.

Mitrovic is preparing to make big changes for next season, and he's looking not only towards on-ice ability, but academic dedication as well. The team lost players throughout this season because of academic suspension.

According to Mitrovic, 17 prospective players are on the negotiation list. He has already secured two goalies, one with NCAA experience and the other from the OHL. Also, he hopes to begin the season with ten or eleven forwards, instead of just five.

Mitrovic said between seven and ten senior players will be returning next season. He confirmed four senior players will not be invited back to play next season, but wouldn't say which players.

"They are welcome to try out again, but that would be futile," he said.

Mitrovic remains optimistic that next season the team will climb up from the basement of the OUA standings.

"I won't make [playoff] predictions again, but I can say the team will improve," he explained.

Buckley wants to believe him. "It's nice to hear [the coaching staff] say next year looks good; but, I was told this year was supposed to be good, too."

In two weeks Mitrovic said he will reveal the final team roster.

"I know who will be playing, but I'm not saying," he said.

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Toronto women's hockey team loses half of their equipment, conference championship

Team left unprepared for OUA final; coach labels incident as 'unfortunate'

ROB TERPSTRA
The Brock Press

ST CATHARINE'S (CUP)—After six months, 26 games and thousands of ice minutes logged, it took less than five minutes of overtime to finally decide a winner.

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks repeated as Ontario University Athletics (OUA) women's hockey champions on 6 March, claiming the OUA banner for the third year in a row. The Golden Hawks defeated the University of Toronto Varsity Blues 2-1 in overtime, as Jessica Judges' first goal couldn't have been timed any better.

The two teams had already solidified a trip to Antigonish, Nova Scotia and the CIS championships, which wrapped up this past weekend.

Much to the dismay of U of T's

personnel, hours before their gold medal matchup against Laurier, half of their equipment was stolen, which left the team forced to borrow goalie equipment, sticks and jerseys.

"I think it is unfortunate when we have half our equipment stolen," U of T head coach Karen Hughes said.

"To show up on a gold medal game day with our goaltender equipment missing, players' skates missing and sweaters missing—it's a pretty big issue."

At an obvious psychological disadvantage, the Varsity Blues displayed an impressive poise in the OUA finale, despite the circumstances.

Unfortunately, a momentary lapse by Toronto occurred as time wound down in the first period and Laurier opened the game's scoring on Laurissa Kenworthy's buzzer-beating goal.

As Laurier quickly filed out to the

locker room, U of T protested the call, claiming the puck had crossed the line after the period's horn. The protest went unanswered, however, as the team meekly followed their counterparts as the zamboni cleaned the ice.

After the intermission, Delguidice recorded the game-tying goal with 6:44 remaining in the second with a superb individual effort along the left wing, beating Wielgosz short-side to force overtime.

The extra frame was short lived, and golden dreams for the Varsity Blues were even shorter, as the Hawks skated to victory with the tournament-ending winner from Judges.

"We have been working so hard the entire year," said Laurier's Andrea Bevan. "We wanted to go in to [the CIS championships] as the OUA's top team."

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Heather Huston
MFA Printmaking Thesis
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March 7-18

JESSICA WARREN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

"Films are becoming less interesting. Now, it's about the special effects or the coolness of it all; I like to have an awareness of what we had before, a knowledge that we don't always have to go to the extreme to get a message across." Although MFA printmaking student Heather Huston may not have studied filmmaking as art, she certainly knows how to use the medium as inspiration for her work. Her Master's thesis, *Model Homes*, is currently on display on FAB's second floor, and its almost surreal black and white images speak to the complex relationships that can exist between different kinds of art, and the viewer's perception of what they're seeing.

"I was looking at a lot of old films as I was making these, and I was looking at the way they use lighting to create an atmosphere," Huston recounts while walking by her work. "I saw how the environment or the set sort of became another character, and that's what I wanted to do here. I want the viewer to become another character. I certainly enjoy the way that older films—which didn't have the technology available to us today—developed really interesting techniques because they only had a limited amount of equipment to work with, whereas now it seems there are almost no limits to what we can do."

Film wasn't the only catalyst for the development of Huston's current exhibition. Travel has also been an enlightening act for her, as she spent several months travelling across Japan and Europe last year. The cross-cultural experience, she says, also helped to give her a new outlook on life and art once she returned home to Canada. Stemming from the ideas created automatically by the brain when it sees something familiar, such as a room, Huston's work carefully deconstructs our preconceptions about the world around us and our own sense of what we know and don't know.

"You go somewhere, anywhere, and you don't know what kind of footpaste to buy, and the way you pay for groceries is totally different from here, so it's just that, something that you don't even think about when you're at home needs to be thought about, and feels really odd when you're elsewhere."

"... when you go to someone's house you see your own rug and your own couch. ... I want people to go through the exhibit and to question whether they've seen a certain chair before; I want them to constantly question."

HEATHER HUSTON

Huston's work forces the viewer to slow down and pay minute attention to detail. Her prints attempt to throw the viewer off balance by shifting their views of everyday subjects, and also by the inclusion of some multidimensional pieces that beg viewers to stop and interpret the work in front of them. The idea of the "familiar becoming strange" is everywhere in Huston's exhibit, and it serves as a fitting motif in an art gallery, where the common experience of simply seeing a painting on a wall is quickly becoming a stereotypical expectation, one that is contrary to the reality.

"I'd like the viewer to be aware that they're in a different space; all of these pieces are about the fine line that exists between everything. I repeat a lot of the furniture models, and I think especially with students you find that they buy a lot of IKEA furniture, so when you go to someone's house you see your own rug and your own couch. Or even with housing developments, you have ten different kinds of houses and ten different colour schemes, and it's bizarre seeing things repeated. I want people to go through the exhibit and to question whether they've seen a certain chair before; I want them to constantly question."

MAKING THE GALLERY HOME Heather Huston's exhibition, *Model Homes*, is on display in FAB.

LEAHNE BROWN

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March 9-18
FAB Gallery

JESSICA WARREN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Judging books by their covers is an act many of us are guilty of, but with the help of The Alcuin Society 2004 Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada, we will, for once, be encouraged to judge by what's on the outside. The Society's top choices in many different genres are currently on display on the main floor of the Fine Arts Building (FAB), and as their covers and page art can attest, the modern idea that a book can truly be a work of art is apparent. Susan Colberg, an assistant professor of visual communication and design at the U of A, was one of three judges who chose the 2004 winner of the awards, and as she is well aware, good cover art is becoming more of a necessity in book design.

"I think [the popularity of this contest] has everything to do with our society being a more visual culture," says Colberg. "People are becoming more sophisticated; they're exposed to more visual imagery through the Internet and other media, so people are becoming more interested in the visual side of things. As well, books are becoming more of an object to have. Rather than being looked at just for their

content they're actually looked at now for their form, the design of their cover and the lavishness of their production."

"... even regionally there are differences in approaches to book design and particular areas have strengths. Like for instance, Quebec is very strong in children's book design, and many university presses, like the UBC press and the U of A press, are very strong in the non-fiction categories."

SUSAN COLBERG, BOOK DESIGN JUDGE

Books were submitted from across Canada and judged in Vancouver, where of 28 winners were chosen from hundreds of submissions. The books were looked at as a complete entity, with such aspects of design as typography, copyright page and the clarity of printing helping to distinguish the winners from their fellow competitors.

"It was tremendously interesting to see



LEAHNE BROWN

NOT DOING IT BY THE BOOK The winning designs showing in FAB were chosen as the best in Canada.

what is happening across Canada right now, because even regionally there are differences in approaches to book design and particular areas have strengths," explains Colberg. "Like, for instance, Quebec is very strong in children's book design, and many university presses, like the UBC press and the U of A press, are very strong in the non-fiction categories."

The awards are not monetary, but are very highly sought out by publishers as a mark of distinction that will set them and their work apart from other publishing houses. For students, however, the winners on display in FAB allow for rare chance to escape the dusty stacks of Rutherford and catch some oft-unappreciated art.



Foreign film worthy of Hollywood hype

South Africa's *Tsotsi* hits social ills through story of kidnap, guns and gang life

Tsotsi

Directed by Gavin Hood
Starring Presley Chweneyagae, Mothusi Magano, Kenneth Nkosi and Terry Pheto
Opens Friday, 17 March

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Entertainment Editor

There are some subjects that make for good movies, and when *Tsotsi* won Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards a few weeks ago, those who had heard of it might very well have written it off as a film that merely wrapped itself in critical issues. *Tsotsi* does touch on AIDS, and poverty, and gangs. What, however, makes *Tsotsi* worthy of the award isn't the subjects that it covers, but the manner in which those discourses are delivered: tastefully, emotionally and in an utterly small-scale way.

The film tells the story of *Tsotsi*, a South African AIDS orphan whose harsh upbringing in the slums of a big city have led to a life of crime and brutality. In his early 20s, *Tsotsi* runs a gang comprised mostly of his close friends Aap, a cheerful tag-along who will follow *Tsotsi* almost anywhere, Boston, the smartest of the group but ultimately trapped in the slums by poverty, and Butcher, the most independent, unpredictable and, save for *Tsotsi* himself, the most violent of the group. The group mugs and steal and even murder a man on a train in order to get by, stealing bits of money and still living in the worst parts of the slums.

Alone, *Tsotsi* attempts to steal a car in an affluent South African neighborhood. When the female owner of the car attempts to fight back, *Tsotsi* shoots her and drives off, finding out after that the woman's child was strapped into a car seat in the back. Unable to leave the baby behind and unwilling to go to the authorities, *Tsotsi* takes on the care of the baby himself, going to various means to provide

for it and in the process learning the consequences of his lack of decency and respect, and the cost of his criminal behaviour.

Given its subject matter, it's easy to make *Tsotsi* hard-hitting film. The trick is going from "powerful" and "intense" to powerful and intense. *Tsotsi* manages to do this skillfully and almost unnoticeably, blending characters worth investing in with a social situation that commands attention both from it being a desperate position for young adults to be in, but also because it portrays it not as an unusual exception to the norm, but rather as an all-too-real circumstance for those growing up in expansive slums.

This isn't to say that the film's message of redemption is entirely believable. As heartwarming as it is to see *Tsotsi* soften and become an emotional human being throughout the film, the obvious question is whether taking care of a baby can really bring around such a transition in a matter of a few weeks. Keep in mind, he didn't really do too much caretaking for the latter part, and that we're talking about someone who murdered a businessman on a subway for what was likely only a few hundred dollars.

The problem with this is, to be more specific, that *Tsotsi*'s personal transformation doesn't really take place while taking care of the baby or spending time with his neighbour. This softens *Tsotsi*, definitely, but his personal revelations come when he returns to his thug friends. Seeing how brutal and uncaring the people he associates with are—and the fact that he is undoubtedly the most ruthless of his immediate friends—is what drives him to be a better person. Unfortunately, the screen time allotted to these scenes is cut for arguably less-revealing shots of *Tsotsi* watching the baby get breast-fed.

From this account, it might seem

that *Tsotsi* is a fairly standard movie, but its impact doesn't come solely from the story of *Tsotsi*'s change. It's the very unclear-cut nature of *Tsotsi*'s message that lends it its power. *Tsotsi* doesn't get simply to become a decent person and walk away from his life. The story demands that he answer for his actions, and although he goes to varying lengths to make good on his past crimes, the wrongs committed by *Tsotsi* aren't washed away simply because he realized the error of his ways. Even though the movie is a story about moral redemption, it is also silently spiritual, as well. *Tsotsi* ultimately knows that he will have to pay for his crimes, and without a clean escape from his life, his moral absolutism must, and does, serve as his reward.

Also, the fact that *Tsotsi*'s off-course life is blamed on having a domineering father and a mother dying of AIDS, the cyclical nature of kids like *Tsotsi* growing up in South Africa is clearly portrayed. A repeating, arching shot of a prominent banner hanging in a train station reading, "AIDS Affects Us All!" is an unsubtle nudge to the viewers, pointing out that *Tsotsi*'s problem isn't just a matter of reforming a street thug, but changing a system that produces too many of them altogether. The deep-down goodness of *Tsotsi* is only complemented by Boston, and presses on how the severe living conditions and crushing poverty of South African slums drive many to a life of crime and brutality, or at the very least an existence of hopelessness and desolation.

Tsotsi deserved to win the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Not because it talked about AIDS or poverty or gang violence, but because it managed to do so with a story that highlighted nothing yet drew attention to the problems by making you powerfully care about a single individual who's life has been railroaded by those very issues.

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The Robocop Kraus

They Think They Are Robocop Kraus
Epitaph
www.therobocopkraus.de

JONN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Hailing from Germany, The Robocop Kraus hit the mainstream scene with their fourth release *They Think They Are*, an electronica album that brought the band to light as one of Epitaph's hidden gems.

Electronica in general has the tendency to get either too poppy or too unoriginal by the time the album reaches its halfway point, but luckily, due to catchy song writing and a few drops of rock thrown in, the

band manages to create a memorable piece of Euro pop. Borrowing equal elements of Devo and Radiohead, the band's tunes remain etched into your consciousness. There is not a song to be found that doesn't have either a catchy guitar hook or memorable chorus, and you'll be humming the tunes constantly for a few days, annoying your neighbours, roommates and cat. They pull this off without visibly repeating beats or sounds, which is a feat in itself.

Occasionally, the lead singer, Thomas Kraus, seems to be channeling Joe Strummer, an achievement I would usually look down upon, but he actually pulls the sound off convincingly, using it to add to the band's interesting and unique sound. The lyrics are well written, although not all that uplifting, as can be seen in tracks such as "Life Amazes Us Despite Our Miserable Future."

If you're a fan of synth-rock, this is a great album from a talented band, but still sits as a genre-specific album. If you're looking to venture into a new world of music, however, The Robocop Kraus is a great place to start.



Sum 41

Go Chuck Yourself Live
Aquarius
www.sum41.com

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Entertainment Editor

I have to give some credit to Sum 41. Sure, they're not really a band set to blow you away with their sound anytime soon, but given what the tracks started with—and not to mention the pop-punk in general—they've managed to produce some not-bad songs that reach to the punkier end of the genre.

They're latest live album, *Go Chuck Yourself*, however, is easily an underwhelming effort, even by someone who is willing to give them the benefit of the doubt. With no new songs appearing on the compilation, and the production making it sound like a studio album with clapping bookending every track, this CD is a *Chuck* waste of time.



BARBARA CHUNG

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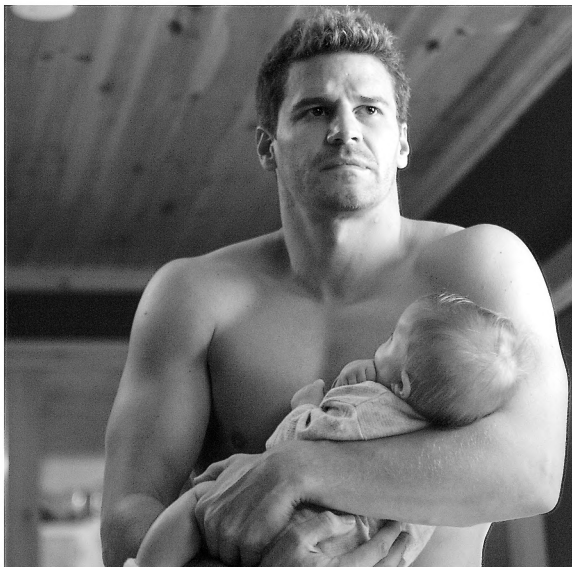
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BUFFY FANS EVERYWHERE ARE JEALOUS Finally, a movie shows breast-feeding on film, in all its natural, beefcake glory.

These Girls takes it from the critics

It takes a lot of work to screw up a movie about teenage girls blackmailing a guy into continually having sex with them, but *These Girls* go all the way

These Girls

Directed by John Hazlett
Starring David Boreanaz, Amanda Walsh, Caroline Dhavernas and Holly Lewis
Now playing

IRIS TSE
SCOTT LILWALL
Terrible-Movie Reviewers

Scott: Let's get right to it: *These Girls* is a terrible movie, and seems like people have only heard of it because of the "famous" stars. I'll admit that my knowledge of celebrities is lacking, but save for knowing that David Boreanaz has done some popular television work and being familiar with the name of Amanda Walsh, I have never heard of these other actors. They could have been picked up on the bus stop outside of the studio, for all I know. Actually, that seems likely, seeing how disappointing the acting was. None of them ever seemed to be very comfortable in their roles, with Boreanaz being the most painful to watch.

Iris: Hey, the girls sitting next to me sure had no problem with his "acting," especially when they saw his naked butt. But let's not kid ourselves here. This is by no means a quality movie. I mean, you know you're looking at a doomed project when the most recognizable actors in the cast are that guy from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and an ex-Much Music VJ. Imagine the kind of thespian experience they're bringing. This is also a noticeably Canadian movie. The low-budget, I-made-this-with-my-friends-in-my-backyard-over-the-summer feel aside, there's simply no avoiding the shoe-horned Canadian references in the form of a recurring envelope with the McGill letterhead or the presence of pot throughout the movie.

Scott: And really, Iris, it wouldn't be a

Canadian movie without pot. I'm sure that our government's film grants are based on how many times they show weed on-screen. This cinematic cesspool starts off with recent high-school graduates Keri (Caroline Dhavernas) and Lisa (Holly Lewis, who is too old to play 16, despite what the film tries to claim) plotting to steal pot leaves from the local dreamy, non-threatening drug dealer, Keith (Boreanaz). It's worth noting that Keith is horrible at his job. If you're going to sell illegal substances, at least have the common sense to build your greenhouse a few feet back from the property line. That, and invest in a paildock.

This seems more like it was meant to be an instructional video for aspiring young filmmakers. The "Do's" and "Don'ts" of filmmaking. Minus the "Do's," of course.

So, while sneaking about in Keith's backyard, the two girls happen to spy Keith and the final member of the air-head trio, Glory (Amanda Walsh), engaged in sexual congress. This starts a chain of seductions that lead to the three girls blackmailing Keith into a summer full of sweet, sinful adultery.

Iris: Not only is the plot of three teenage girls blackmailing Keith into having sex with them on a rotating schedule outright ridiculous, there was no character growth or any sort of development during the movie.

There's also a serious problem with

the editing. It's never a good idea to intersperse an argument between two friends when the third friend is inside the house awkwardly giving up her virginity. Also, they seemed to think it necessary to throw in a seemingly meaningless lake-riding montage.

Scott: Editing. Yeah. You'd think for a country with some great technical film schools, we could, at the very least, make a film that at least looks good. To tell you the truth, the more I think about this movie, the more I think it was never meant for a theatrical release. This seems more like it was meant to be an instructional video for aspiring young filmmakers. The "Do's" and "Don'ts" of filmmaking. Minus the "Do's," of course.

And, if the first lesson was editing, the second is definitely characters. "Don't: choose your main characters from a shoebox full of clichés." Whether it's Keri, the smart, too-sassy-for-school ring-leader; Glory, the stuck-up moonstruck girl who thinks Keith will divorce his wife to marry her and start a family with her; or Lisa, the girl who wants to get as much sinning in as she can before going off to a religious school, all of the people in this "film" are completely forgettable. You already know these characters: they've appeared in every teen comedy since the early '80s. Nobody liked them 20 years ago, and they're even worse now.

Iris: I think I speak for both of us when I say that there are no redeeming qualities to this movie. Well, except for the fact that we didn't have to pay money to see it. Anyone who actually thinks about putting down cash for this disaster better be a hardcore Angel fan or desperately in love with Amanda Walsh, because *These Girls* doesn't offer much beyond a serving of beefcake, a spattering of pretty girls and a whole lot of suck.

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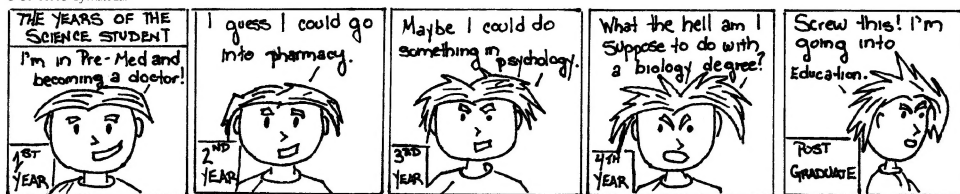
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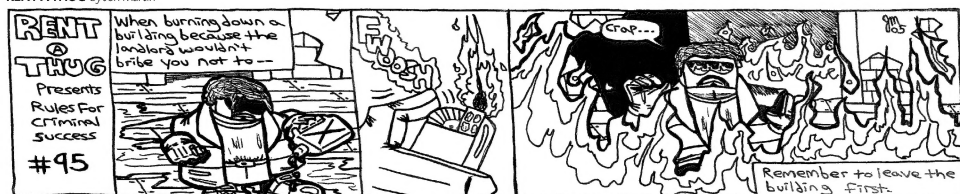
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